GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4980
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Anti-spitting Laws and Unhygienic Surroundings
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the States regarding rampant spitting which has been the cause of many communicable diseases and unhygienic surroundings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen anti-spitting laws and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of awareness programme regarding the ill effects of chewing tobacco, betel, etc. and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): Swachh Bharat Mission has been launched from 2nd October 2014 to promote sanitation and hygiene practices throughout the country. The focus of the programme is on behavior change for adoption of safe sanitation and hygiene, and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns are carried out for this.

This Ministry has also released the Swachchta Guidelines for Public Health Facilities.

Since Sanitation is State subject, the State governments/ local bodies are empowered to issue guidelines on spitting in public places.

(c): An inter-ministerial committee has been constituted on "Ban on spitting in public places".

(d): The Government has taken, inter-alia, following key steps to discourage the consumption of tobacco products with an aim to reduce the demand of tobacco products;
I. The 'Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) has been enacted to discourage the consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

II. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, 2014, and further notification dated 24th September, 2015 mandates specified health warnings covering 85% of the principal display area of the packages of tobacco products.
III. The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in 2007- 08 with the objectives to bring about greater awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and Tobacco Control Laws and to facilitate effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Laws.
IV. The Ministry has started National Toll-free Helpline in 2008 to provide information on harmful effects of consumption of tobacco, and on how to quit tobacco use, including after-effects of quitting tobacco.
V. In addition, the Ministry has started National Tobacco Quitline to provide tobacco cessation services to the community and has launched a pan- India "mCessation" initiative to reach out to tobacco users who are willing to quit tobacco use .
VI. The stakeholders are made aware on a regular basis about the adverse effects of tobacco usage on health through different modes of communication.
VII. The Government of India, under the COTPA, 2003, has enacted Rules that regulate depiction of tobacco use in films and television programmes and inter-alia, mandates display of Anti-tobacco health spots/disclaimers/messages in all films/TV programmes depicting tobacco products or their use. The Rules further prohibit display of brands of cigarettes or other tobacco products or any form of tobacco product placement and depiction of any tobacco products or their usage in any form in promotional materials and posters of films and television programmes.
VIII. The Food Safety and Standards Regulations issued in 2011 under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 lay down that tobacco and nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in Food Products.